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Toshihide Hida

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EXAMINER

VAN DOREN, BETH

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3623

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

04/22/2008

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Advisory Action

1. The following advisory action is in response to communications received 3/19/08.
2. In the remarks, Applicant argues that Bilbrey et al. (U.S. 2002/0103932) does not teach or suggest that when a message address of a member of a message exchanging group is changed, determining a message list which includes the old address of the members, extracting message addresses of the rest of the members of the determined message address list, determining domain information associated with each of the rest of the members of the determined message list, specifying a server to which the absence response information is to be provided based upon the determined domain information, and distributing the absence response information to the specified server or servers.

In response to this argument, Examiner disagrees. Bilbrey et al. discusses message addresses of a member of a message exchanging group being changed. When a member of a group of recipients in a message system changes his/her address and this information is sent by the client to the server. See paragraphs 7-8, 10, 46-7, 63-4, 83. In paragraphs 58, 80, 85-9, Bilbrey et al. discusses that an address list is communicated and used to substantially update the “sponsors” email address list. Email addresses are received and matched against old email addresses. The members that are not the member whose address is changing are obtained and the member along with other members in the list with old addresses are obtained, and updated. See also paragraphs 55, 61, 63-4, and 68. Thus, Bilbrey et al. teaches determining a message address list including the old address of the member, and extracting message addresses of the rest of the members of the determined message address list. A network server has information concerning address changes and thus a server is specified as having the absence response

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information. This information is distributed to the server and the server is interacted with to provide and receive absence information. See paragraphs 7, 55, 59.

Examiner stated that Bilbrey et al. does not expressly disclose determining domain information associated with each of the rest of the members of the determined message list or specifying a server based on the domain information. Examiner takes official notice that domain information consists of a set of network addresses and is a name with which name server records are associated and through which resources are accessed at a number of different servers in the network. Since Bilbrey et al. discloses a system that allows email addresses to be updated associated with servers, it would have been obvious to combine determining domain information when determining server information associated with members in order to more efficiently locate members in the network using addresses.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to BETH VAN DOREN whose telephone number is (571)272-6737. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F, 8:00-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Tariq Hafiz can be reached on 571-272-6729. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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/B.V.D/

April 17, 2008

/Beth Van Doren/

Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3623